

Sometimes help is not a dollar thing, as other approach ~~with~~ might work, as well.

The Chinese have out traded us about like the Dutchmen did the Indians when they gave about "24," for Manhattan, I have always believed that a trade was a 2 people thing that each could set his own price or walk away. You could strike a deal.

My purpose is not to offend any one but our plight is very serious when the productive not pay the production cost one can't keep on for even

yours

P.W. Winanseller

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P.W. Winemiller  
Bullitt, Arkansas

Mr. Senator Michael Johanns

I am writing you concerning the Farm Bill hearings here in because I missed the Oct 14 session because I am having Prostate Cancer treatment and I live about 120 miles from Little Rock, AR.

I am sending you a newspaper article which I believe is about true of all rice farmers. My son now operates the farm and rents more ground also stalked with him yesterday he had some money from previous crops and he would probably pay off the loan but would not have any thing to help with next year crop at predicted prices. He might have problem.

Getting an O.S. crop loan. We just can't live with this new fair trade agreement when as of now Brazil is dictating to us through the legal process what we can or can't do. I believe that the Japanese and European Common Market does whatever they have to do to protect their people which we should do in the U.S. A market below the cost of production just won't work no good.

I know that rice is a crop that requires much inputs of scarce and expensive commodities. The freedom to farm program could be discontinued. We once had a limiting program, which I hate because the committee we elected used this position to further their own interest, which the U.S.D.A. could control in a fair manner for all. The last tank trailer load of diesel fuel delivered to my farm cost over \$20,000. "7,000" gal. Last year in the bin \$7,000. range early the 2<sup>nd</sup> loan price is before a 35-to-40 cents per bushel of drying cost. Or if you prefer a new 10,000 Bu. grain bin with drying cost \$20,000 or 2<sup>nd</sup> pr. Bu.

There were the benefit will start paying a premium of around \$32 per month in January. The amount will vary depending on which plan they choose. President Bush had hoped to get Congress this year to pass a Social Security overhaul he viewed as the centerpiece of his second term. It would have bolstered Social Security finances to deal with a looming funding crisis when 78 million baby boomers begin retiring and have allowed younger workers to create personal accounts. However, the measure has failed to attract widespread support in Congress.

The cost of living adjustment announced Friday will go to more than \$2 million people. More than 48 million receive Social Security benefits.

On the Net:  
Social Security  
Administration also announced Friday that 11.3 million workers will pay higher taxes next year because the maximum amount of Social Security earnings subject to the payroll tax will rise from \$90,000 to \$94,200 next year. In all, an estimated 159 million workers will pay Social Security taxes next year.

By law, the monthly increase in Medicare premiums cannot be higher than an individual's cost of living adjustment. Social Security recipients whose cost of living increase will be less than the \$10.30 premium increase next year will not be forced to pay the entire \$10.30.

On the Net:  
Social Security Administration:  
[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

be passed. We're just looking at everything," he said. Flowers said he hoped that by 2008, when U.S. 63 is designated as an interstate, the issue will be resolved. Berry suggested an alternate route.

"The problem is that the farmers won't have a way to

Ritter Arnold, who owns cotton gins in the area with E. Ritter and Company and attended the meeting Friday, said he was hoping for an alternate route as well. Arnold said that creating a parallel access road for the cotton trucks would cut down on travel time and improve the crossing that exists

don't believe I will do that," the farmer said.

"The average person doesn't realize what the farmer puts into the economy," he said. "The American farmer is the most productive businessman in the world."

Without that productiveness

## GREED: Subsidies needed for affordable food, farmer says

FROM PAGE A1

and the subsidies that help them to stay afloat because of high costs and low prices. Americans would be paying a lot more for food, he said, food whose quality might be questionable.

curth@jonesborosun.com

"We know exactly where our perimeters are now," Berry said. "All it takes is money, and we're going to continue to pursue a solution as we're able to get funds."

Flowers said preliminary cost estimates for an extra road have run between \$1 million and \$14 million.

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# Greed to blame for high cost of farm supplies, Cash-area far-

By CLINT HODGES  
Sun Staff Writer

**CASH** — Louis "Louie" Wewers is very concerned for the future of agriculture, the business he loves.

He said he believes the high costs for diesel fuel, fertilizer and other inputs that farmers can't do without can largely be attributed to greed.

"How can we possibly raise a crop next year at \$3 a gallon for diesel fuel?" he asked.

Fertilizer costs have also increased smartly as have the cost of seed, various chemicals and other items that

farmers must have to grow their crops — but the price farmers received for their produce has not changed, continued Wewers, who grows 1,200 acres of rice and soybeans in the Cash area.

Even though many Arkansas crops yielded very well — near records in some cases, he said — the high costs and low prices could threaten the ability of a lot of people to con-

tinued to farm. A trend, he said, that will only get worse.

"I was in the gas and oil

business for many years," Wewers said, adding that diesel fuel is the easiest to re-

fine among the fuels and, if for no other reason, should not be selling at a higher price than gasoline.

"We're getting a ribbing that won't quit," he said. "I believe a dollar or two [fuel prices] is greed. I won't be able to survive another three

years of [President] George Bush."

"I can pay my bills this year," Wewers said, if he gets another 75 cents a bushel for his rice. He has already put it in the government loan at \$2.97 a bushel, which he said the loan price has been for nearly 35 years.

Wewers also said the world price for rice, which is what the American growers com-

pete with on the world market, is \$2.59 a bushel, which is 38 cents less than the loan de-

ficiency price.

Louis "Louie" Wewers Craighead County farmer

farmers plant. He suggested the American farmer pays an inordinate portion of the developmental costs for the trans-

genic and other technologies

in seed production.

"Brazilian farmers don't have to pay anything extra" for the genetically modified seed. "This past year, Roundup Ready soybean seed cost \$32 for a 50 pound bag," Wewers said. A bushel weighs 60 pounds and at the price of soybeans today, \$5.44 a bushel, it would take nearly eight bushels of soybeans to pay for one bag of seed.

He bought enough diesel fuel at \$1.60 a gallon to produce his 2005 crop, which has helped to keep him out of trouble. Friday, Wewers said, the price of diesel for farmers was \$2.80 a gallon. There's no federal or state taxes on farm fuel except sales tax, he said, and that is not reflected in the \$2.80 price.

"I can get out of this crop, but I won't be able to start another crop at this rate," he said Friday. "I enjoy farming. I'm 53 years old today, and I am one of the younger farmers in the county. I think this is a very serious problem."

Wewers likes to barge crops and it and no government

"Every standing out, but said.

Farmer programs, to in order noted.

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## TODAY:

Sunny, clear tonight.  
Highs around 80. Lows in upper 40s.  
North winds from 5-10 mph.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT:**  
Special section offers tips for  
construction, decor. Coming Sunday.

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